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Bernard [FR/SG]; 25 Leonie Hill Road, #06-05 Grange-
ford, Singapore 239196 (SG). MING, Kiat. Yap
[MY/SG]; Blk 248, Jurong East Street 24, #11-62, Singa-
pore 600248 (SG).

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(74) Agent: DONALDSON & BURKINSHAW; P.O. Box
3667, Singapore 905667 (SG).

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): STMI-
CROELECTRONICS ASIA PACIFIC PTE LTD.
[SG/SG]; 28 Ang Mo Kio Industrial Park 2, Singapore
569508 (SG).

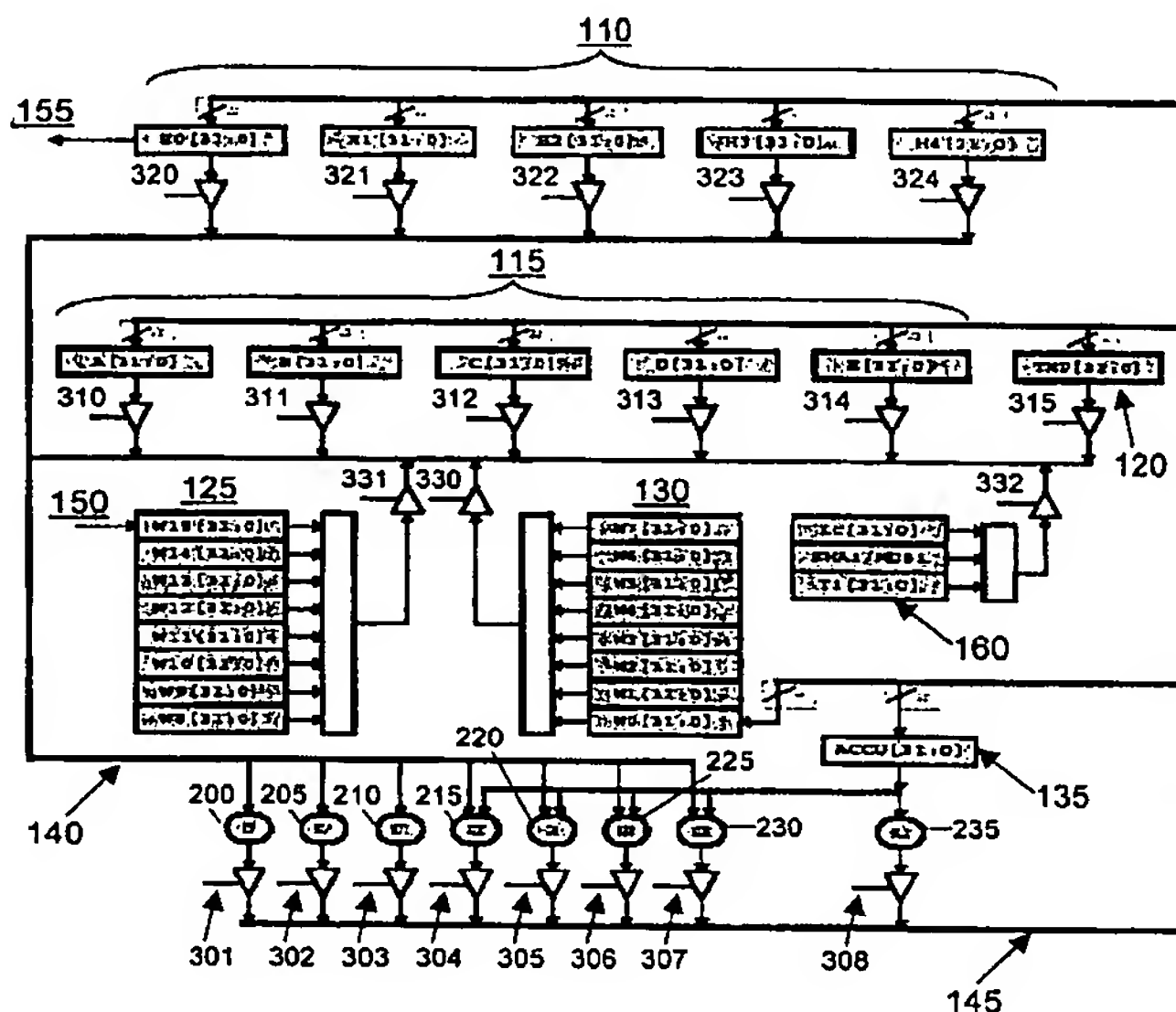
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(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): PLESSIER,

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(54) Title: APPARATUS TO IMPLEMENT DUAL HASH ALGORITHM



(57) **Abstract:** Apparatus is disclosed which is arranged to accept digital data as an input, and to process said data according to one of either the Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA-1) or Message Digest (MD5) algorithm to produce a fixed length output word. The apparatus includes a plurality of rotational registers for storing data, one of the registers being arranged to receive the input data, and data stores for initialisation of some of said plurality of registers according to whether the SHA-1 or MD5 algorithm is used. The data stores include fixed data relating to SHA-1 and MD5 operation. Also included is a plurality of dedicated combinatorial logic circuits arranged to perform logic operations on data stored in selected ones of said plurality of registers.

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